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DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP			KOCH, GEORGE R	
2101 L Street, NW			ART UNIT	
Washington, DC 20037			PAPER NUMBER	
			1734	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 23-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. All of applicants arguments are directed towards the point that Bouras does not disclose droplet dispensing. Ciardella has been applied as a disclosure of a droplet dispensing apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11 and 23, 24, 28-30, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ciardella (US 5,711,989).

As to claim 1 and 23, Ciardella discloses an apparatus (see Figure 5) for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising: a substrate holding unit (conveyor and fixer - see lift and lock mechanism in column 3, lines 5-13 and column 5, lines 36-40) for holding a semiconductor wafer substrate (i.e., a circuit board with semiconductor elements thereon, see columns 1-10), wherein said semiconductor wafer substrate is capable of being provided with at least one electrode formed on a first surface thereof (chip 10, solder balls 12, etc), a discharging mechanism (syringe 20 and dispensing

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needle 22) which is explicitly for discharging droplets (see abstract, which recites “drop generator”) of viscous material (for example, column 8, lines 8-10) contained in a viscous material container unit (syringe 84) through at least one discharging nozzle (nozzle 70) onto said first surface of said semiconductor wafer substrate held on said substrate holding unit; a drive mechanism (conveyor 22 and XYZ electromechanical positioner 38) for displacing at least one of said semiconductor wafer substrate and said discharging nozzle; and a control unit (items 18, 38, 40, and 42) for controlling said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is attached to said first surface of said semiconductor wafer substrate except at least a portion of said electrode. The apparatus of Ciardella, disclosed as dispensing viscous material, is capable of dispensing any sub-species of viscous material including raw sealant resin.

As to claim 2 and 24, Ciardella is capable of being used wherein said electrode formed on said first surface of said semiconductor wafer substrate is a protruded-shaped electrode, and wherein said control unit is adapted to control said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is attached to said first surface except a tip portion of said protruded-shaped electrode.

As to claim 6 and 28, Ciardella discloses a heater (see column 6, lines 64-67 and column 7, lines 1-19) for heating said raw sealant resin contained in said resin container unit.

As to claim 7 and 29, the control unit of Ciardella is capable of controlling said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is not attached to at least a portion of dicing lines of said semiconductor wafer substrate.

As to claim 8 and 30, the control unit of Ciardella is capable of being adapted to control said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is not attached to dicing lines of said semiconductor wafer substrate and forms a layer with edges of a rounded shape in a vicinity of intersecting points of said dicing lines.

As to claim 10 and 32, the control unit of Ciardella is capable of controlling said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is not attached to at least a portion of dicing lines of said semiconductor wafer substrate.

As to claim 11 and 33, the control unit of Ciardella is capable of controlling said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that said raw sealant resin is not attached to dicing lines of said semiconductor wafer substrate and forms a layer with edges of a rounded shape in vicinity of intersecting points of said dicing lines.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 4, 26, 34-36, 38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciardella (US 5,711,989) as applied to claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11 and 23, 24, 28-30, and 32-33 above, and further in view of Bouras (US 5,906,682).

As to claim 4 and 26, Ciardella does not suggest that the substrate holding unit is provided with a temperature control mechanism.

Bouras discloses an improvement of Ciardella wherein the substrate holding unit is provided with a substrate temperature control mechanism (item 44, 46 and 47, see column 5, lines 32-47) for controlling a temperature of at least said semiconductor wafer substrate. One in the art would appreciate that preventing hot spots on the circuit board and its components would protect the substrate from damage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilize such a temperature control mechanism in order to protect the substrate from overheating.

As for claim 34, Ciardella discloses the discharging head (nozzle 70 and subelements - see Figure 3), the resin container unit (syringe 84), the drive mechanism (conveyor 22 and XYZ electromechanical positioner 38), and control unit (items 18, 38, 40, and 42) for controlling the discharging head and the drive mechanism (see rejection of claim 1 and 23 above) and wherein the substrate is held in a substrate holding unit (conveyor and fixer - see lift and lock mechanism in column 3, lines 5-13 and column 5, lines 36-40).

However, while Ciardella does disclose a semiconductor substrate (circuit board 35), Ciardella is silent as to the details of the circuit board.

Bouras, which discloses an improvement of Ciardella, further discloses that a similar semiconductor wafer substrate (either of chip 10 or circuit board 16), the

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semiconductor wafer substrate having at least one electrode (items 12 and 14) on a first surface thereof. Therefore, one in the art would appreciate that the claimed substrate can be used with Ciardella. One in the art would utilize the claimed substrate in order to properly coat the substrate and to reduce the need for multiple versions of similar apparatus. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized such a substrate with the apparatus of Ciardella in order to reduce apparatus costs.

As to claim 35, Bouras as incorporated discloses that at least one electrode has a protruded shape (as seen in Figures 1 and 2).

As to claim 36, Ciardella is capable of being used to control said discharging head and said drive mechanism such that the first surface of the semiconductor wafer is covered by said raw sealant resin except a tip portion of said protruded-shaped electrode.

As to claim 38, Ciardella does not suggest that the substrate holding unit is provided with a temperature control mechanism.

Bouras discloses an improvement of Ciardella wherein the substrate holding unit is provided with a substrate temperature control mechanism (item 44, 46 and 47, see column 5, lines 32-47) for controlling a temperature of at least said semiconductor wafer substrate. One in the art would appreciate that preventing hot spots on the circuit board and its components would protect the substrate from damage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilize

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such a temperature control mechanism in order to protect the substrate from overheating.

As to claim 40, Ciardella discloses a heater (see column 6, lines 64-67 and column 7, lines 1-19) for heating said raw sealant resin contained in said resin container unit.

6. Claims 3, 5, 25, 27, 31 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciardella as applied to claims 1 and 23 above, or Ciardella and Bouras as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Nakazawa (US 5,935,375).

As to claim 3, 25 and 37, Ciardella and/or Bouras does not disclose that said discharging mechanism is provided with a plurality of discharging nozzles.

Nakazawa discloses using a discharging mechanism is provided with a plurality of discharging nozzles (see Figures 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B). Nakazawa discloses that different nozzle sizes can be used in order minimize the differences in the rate of resin dispensing, so that the formation of resin-less voids is deterred (column 4, lines 26-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized multiple nozzles as in Nakazawa in order to avoid resin-less voids.

Furthermore, as to claims 5, 25, and 37, the discharging nozzle of Nakazawa meet the limitation of being two different kinds of discharging mechanisms, heads or means.

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As to claim 9 and 31, the control unit of Ciardella and/or Bouras is capable of said control unit controls said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that a first discharging mechanism of said at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms is capable of discharging droplets of raw sealant resin of an amount smaller than other discharging mechanisms used for discharging said raw sealant resin for an area in a vicinity of said electrode.

7. Claims 5, 9, 27, 31 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciardella as applied to claims 1 and 23 above, or Ciardella and Bouras as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Prentice (US 6,007,631).

As to claim 5, 27, and 39, Ciardella and/or Bouras does not disclose at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms, heads or means, each being capable of discharging respective different amounts of raw sealant resin.

Prentice discloses at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms, heads or means, (see Figure 5) each being capable of discharging respective different amounts of raw sealant resin. Prentice discloses that such multiple mechanisms allow for parallel processing of the substrates (see abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have two discharging mechanisms in order to achieve parallel processing.

As to claim 9 and 31, the control unit of either Ciardella and/or Bouras is capable of said control unit controls said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that a first discharging mechanism of said at least two kinds of discharging

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mechanisms is capable of discharging droplets of raw sealant resin of an amount smaller than other discharging mechanisms used for discharging said raw sealant resin for an area in a vicinity of said electrode.

8. Claims 5, 9, 27, 31 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciardella as applied to claims 1 and 23 above, or Ciardella and Bouras as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Cavallaro (US 6,017,392).

As to claim 5, 27, and 29, Ciardella and/or Bouras does not disclose at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms, heads or means, each being capable of discharging respective different amounts of raw sealant resin.

Cavallaro discloses at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms, heads or means, each being capable of discharging respective different amounts of raw sealant resin. Cavallaro discloses that each mechanism can be connected to or include different types of nozzles and/or dispense different types of liquids (column 2). Cavallaro discloses that this system allows for the assembly to dispense at different locations without it being necessary to move the entire pump assembly every time a dot is dispensed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have two discharging mechanisms in order to dispense at multiple locations without moving the entire assembly.

As to claim 9 and 31, the control unit of Ciardella and/or Bouras is capable of said control unit controls said discharging mechanism and said drive mechanism such that a first discharging mechanism of said at least two kinds of discharging mechanisms

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is capable of discharging droplets of raw sealant resin of an amount smaller than other discharging mechanisms used for discharging said raw sealant resin for an area in a vicinity of said electrode.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1230 (TDD only). If the applicant cannot make a direct TDD-to-TDD call, the applicant can communicate by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-866-377-8642 and giving the operator the above TDD number. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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George R. Koch III

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GRK
9/18/2005